

THE AFGHANISTAN-IRAQ WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, like all Members of Congress during the Memorial week break, I had two occasions to give different types of recognition speeches to the families of those who gave loved ones who never came back from war; so therefore I had several opportunities in eastern North Carolina, the home of Camp Lejeune Marine Base and Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station.

Every time I would make the comment that it was time to bring our troops home from Afghanistan and that it was time to stop paying the crook named Karzai, who is the President of Afghanistan, truthfully, Mr. Speaker, I would get strong applause; and many times after the speeches, people would come up to me and say, We agree with you. It's time to stop spending this money in Afghanistan. It's time to start spending the money in America and to let the Afghans take care of themselves.

Mr. Speaker, probably a couple of weeks ago, I spoke on the floor of the House, and probably other Members had seen the article that was in The New York Times in which the CIA acknowledged that, after 10 years, they had been giving hundreds of millions of dollars to Karzai in cash. In that same article, Karzai was interviewed, and one of his comments was that of "an easy source of petty cash." Karzai wants to continue to get an easy source of petty cash—tens of millions of dollars going to Karzai in order to prop him up until the Taliban takes Afghanistan over. When I think about the number of young men and women being killed in Afghanistan to prop up this corrupt leader, it reminds me of another tragedy in recent American history—the tragedy of the unnecessary war in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, this past week, in being home, I watched three times on HBO a movie called "Taking Chance," which is the true story of Lieutenant Colonel Michael Strobl's journey to escort the body of PFC Chance Phelps, a fellow marine who died in Iraq, from Dover Air Force Base to the young man's funeral in Wyoming. It is a beautiful story of love, of pain, and of concern. I hope that Members of Congress as well as the American people will get a chance to see the movie called "Taking Chance." It's a true story. In that story about Taking Chance home, it is a beautiful understanding of the pain and the love of those at Dover Air Force Base who receive the remains from Afghanistan and who take care of those remains. It is absolutely heart-wrenching to see the love that these people have for those who have given their lives for this country.

Mr. Speaker, after seeing this movie and then reading in the papers that Iraq is falling apart, I would like to say

to Mr. Rumsfeld and to the previous administration: thank you for getting us into this unnecessary war. Mr. Rumsfeld, you were wrong. You said that Iraqi oil was going to pay for the war. No. The Chinese are benefitting.

This is another article in The New York Times in which it says that China is the biggest winner. According to this article, the Chinese buy almost half of the oil produced in Iraq.

Again, the previous administration got us into an unnecessary war. In fact, a Defense Department official from the Bush administration said:

We lost out. The Chinese had nothing to do with the war, but from an economic standpoint, they are benefitting from it, and our Fifth Fleet and Air Forces are helping to assure their supply.

Even worse, we are borrowing this Chinese money to fund this corrupt leader.

I hope that Congress will wake up. Next week, we will be debating the armed services bill. I am on that committee. I have worked across the aisle with my friends on the Democratic side to cut the funding for Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I have this photograph of a flag-draped coffin. It could have been PFC Chance Phelps' coffin—it's not, but it could have been—or it could have been the coffin of 4,400 other servicemen and women who died in Iraq.

God, please continue to bless our men and women in uniform. God, continue to bless America; and please, God, let us never forget the sacrifices made by so many in these wars that are unnecessary and in these wars that are necessary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As a reminder, Members should address their remarks to the Chair.

SMALL BUSINESS TAX EQUITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Since 1996, when California voters legalized the medical use of marijuana, the movement has spread across America. Over the last 17 years, 19 States and the District of Columbia have been pioneering therapy involving the medical use of marijuana.

It has long been recognized that marijuana had therapeutic values which were utilized with chemotherapy patients to mitigate or to stop the constant nausea. People have used it to deal with chronic paralyzing pain. There is now a wide range of therapeutic uses, from a system of multiple sclerosis to helping some of our veterans with PTSD.

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A million people seek treatment that is perfectly legal under their State laws. What is not legal is for these hundreds of legitimate businesses pro-

viding a product that is important to a million people to be able to treat their business expenses like every other business and be able to deduct them from their operating income for tax purposes.

Decades ago, a drug dealer attempted to deduct the cost of his yacht and his weapons as a business expense. Congress, understandably, responded in 1982 by making expenses associated with dealing in a controlled substance ineligible for a deduction. That fixed the drug dealer, but it is has now ensnared hundreds of legitimate businesses operating under State law, by the way, laws usually approved by a vote of the people. As a result, they cannot now deduct entirely legitimate business operating expenses; they cannot claim the work opportunity tax credit if they hire a veteran; and they cannot depreciate their American-made irrigation equipment. The deduction for the construction or operating costs of a facility that they may want to revitalize is not allowed. As a result, these small businesses end up paying an effective tax rate that is double or triple the 15 percent to 30 percent that would normally be associated with the profits on most businesses. Their effective tax rates often are 60 percent to 75 percent.

Washington and Colorado are about to begin operation of businesses for the recreational adult use of marijuana authorized by their voters last fall. The situation is thus to become more complex and a burden even greater for more emerging small businesses.

We don't have to penalize hundreds of legitimate small businesses across the country to deal with a drug dealer. I'm introducing bipartisan legislation, the Small Business Tax Equity Act of 2013. Any business under this act that operates under State law would be able to deduct legitimate expenses for their business.

We shouldn't impose punitive double, triple, or quadruple ordinary rates because Congress has not modernized either the Federal drug laws or the Tax Code. We should not force them to discontinue a vital service for a million Americans or drive it underground or, frankly, encourage evasion by punitive taxes that are unjustified or unnecessary.

Let's bring this out of the shadows and encourage these small businesses to be treated fairly. It's entirely possible that we will end up actually collecting more revenue, fostering more respect for the law, and ensuring a vital supply of medical marijuana for more than a million people who depend upon it.

BAD DECISIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk